



Click on the clover to join 4-H

4-H Fun in February!

4-H offers fun, free, hands-on programs for grades 4th through 12th in Hamilton County. [Join 4-H online](#) and get involved in 4-H this month!

Congratulations!

4-H Public Speaking County Contest Winners

The Hamilton County 4-H Public Speaking Contest was held on January 24 at Chattanooga State Community College. Congratulations to all of the participants, and many thanks to the Judges: Professor Maria Avolio, Dr. Trae Cotton, and Instructor April Kidd from the Chattanooga State Communications Department, Adam Presley (4-H Horse Club Leader), Carolina Shank (2024 Eastern Region senior high 4-H public speaking champion), and Professor Jim Tanner of UTC!

First-place winners in grades 4th - 8th will advance to the multi-county competition on March 7. First-place winners in grades 9th - 12th advanced to the Eastern Region Contest on February 1 in Knoxville.

4th grade: 1st - Joyce Seo (Chattanooga School for Liberal Arts), 2nd - Michelle Garcia (Hixson Elementary), 3rd - Payton Neely (North Hamilton County Elementary). 4th grade participants also included Leon Dugger

(CSLA), Harper Facey (CSAS), Ridglea Kile (Hixson Elementary), and Katie Smith (Hixson Elementary).

5th grade: 1st - Anushree Bhagyaraj (Chattanooga School for Liberal Arts), 2nd - Syna Patel (Chattanooga School for Liberal Arts), 3rd (Tie) - Kabir Brahmbhatt (Chattanooga School for Arts & Sciences) and Kaylee Woida (North Hamilton County Elementary).

5th grade participants also included Marlee Baird (CSLA), Angelo D'Amore (Archery club), Landon Ford (CSLA), Henley Fryar (Hixson Elementary), Chase Hale (Soddy Elementary), Lydia Ringheimer (Gardening Club), and Tempi Frederick (Soddy Elementary).

7th grade: 1st - Riley Davis (Archery Club), 2nd - DeMitrius Davis (Honor Club), 3rd - Robby Hanson (Robotics Club).

8th grade - 1st - Lillian Shank (Citizenship Club), 2nd - Nora Aslinger (Gardening Club).

9th grade - 1st - Liam Cook (Archery Club).

10th grade - Beau Duvall (Honor Club).

11th grade - Carter Johnson (Archery Club).

12th grade - John Wood (Robotics Club)



Fantastic Fourth Graders at the County Public Speaking Contest. 4th grade participants included Leon Dugger, Ridglea Kile, Harper Facey, Michelle Garcia, Payton Neely, Joyce Seo, and Katie Smith



Fourth Grade - first place - Joyce Seo; second place - Michelle Garcia; third place - Payton Neely



Fabulous Fifth Graders at the County Public Speaking Contest. 5th grade participants



Fifth Grade - first place - Anushree Bhagyaraj;

included Marlee Baird, Anushree Bhagyaraj, Kabir Brahmhatt, Angelo D'Amore, Landon Ford, Tempi Frederick, Henley Fryar, Chase Hale, Syna Patel, Lydia Ringheimer, and Kaylee Woida.

second place - Syna Patel; third place (TIE) - Kabir Brahmhatt and Kaylee Woida



Seventh Grade - first place - Riley Davis; second place - DeMitrius Davis; 3rd place - Robby Hanson

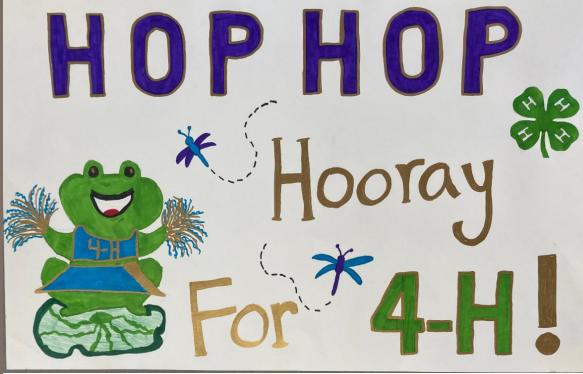


Eighth Grade - first place - Lillian Shank; second place - Nora Aslinger



Senior High first-place winners - 9th grade - Liam Cook, 10th grade - Beau Duvall, 11th grade - Carter Johnson, and 12th grade - John Wood.

4-H Art Poster Contest County Winners



Handmade poster by Avaley Brown, North Hamilton County Elementary School



Handmade poster by Donovan Sharp, Hixson Elementary School



Handmade poster by Megan Aaron, Chattanooga School for Arts & Sciences



Digital poster by Heidi Provence, 4-H Honor Club



Digital poster by Alivia Hanks, Soddy Elementary School



Digital poster by Sidney Carlisle, Chattanooga School for Arts & Sciences

The 2025 4-H Art Poster Contest winners have been chosen by the judges. Congratulations to the 4-H'ers who created these amazing posters!

The three first-place winning handmade posters, which have been sent on to the Eastern Region Regular 4-H Art Poster Contest were created by:
 Avaley Brown, 4th grade, North Hamilton County Elementary School
 Megan Aaron, 4th grade, Chattanooga School for Arts & Sciences
 Donovan Sharp, 4th grade, Hixson Elementary School

The three first-place winning digital posters, which have been sent on to the Eastern Region Digital 4-H Art Poster Contest were created by:
 Heidi Provence, 10th grade, 4-H Honor Club
 Alivia Hanks, 5th grade, Soddy Elementary School
 Sidney Carlisle, 4th grade, Chattanooga School for Arts & Sciences

Look for other regular and digital poster winners in the next

Senior High Public Speaking Regional Contest



Liam Cook, Carter Johnson, and Beau Duvall at the 2025 Senior High Eastern Region 4-H Public Speaking Contest in Knoxville

Hamilton County was well-represented at the 2025 Eastern Region Senior High 4-H Public Speaking Contest held at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville on February 1. Carter Johnson, 11th grade, Beau Duvall, 10th grade, and Liam Cook, 9th grade gave some awesome speeches. Liam finished 4th, the highest finish for Hamilton County!

4-H Hippology



Beau Duvall, Evie Nazor, and Kailee Coulter at the Eastern Region Contest

Congratulations to the Senior High 4-H Hippology Judging Team of Evie Nazor, Kailee Coulter and Beau Duvall. They will be competing in the state 4-H Hippology Contest to be held at the University of Tennessee Knoxville Ag Campus next weekend. They will compete in hippology stations and team problems, written test, and horse identification.

Hamilton County youth competed at the 2025 Eastern Region Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests. Senior High competitor Beau Duvall placed 11th high individual in Hippology. Other county 4-H Mane Attraction Club members competing include – Kailee Coulter, Evie Nazor, Olivia Brown, Carol Hurst and Landon Gentry.

4-H Opportunities!

4-H Chick Chain Register by February 18!



Sign up by February 18 for the 2025 4-H Chick Chain. Grades 4th-12th. Cost is \$60 for 12 baby chicks. A required orientation course is held in March/early April. Youth learn how to raise chickens, keep records of their work, and bring 3 hens to the 4-H Chick Chain show and sale at the Hamilton County Fair in the Fall. Youth keep the proceeds from the sale. Click on the link below for additional information and a link to the registration form, or contact the Extension office (423-209-8560) to have it mailed to you.

[Chick Chain Information](#)

2025 4-H Cornbread Cook-Off

Enter by February 28!

Grades 4th - 6th can enter this year's contest by **sending in a recipe by February 28**. First Prize is \$500 cash! Your recipe must be cooked in Lodge cast iron.

The National Cornbread Festival is Sunday, April 27, 2025 in South Pittsburg, TN, and the Top 10 finalists will participate in the live 4-H cookoff at this event. Send in your recipe today. Tip - be creative in your recipe ingredients!

[4-H Cornbread Cook-Off Entry Form](#)



Extension Month Photo Contest

Enter by March 28!

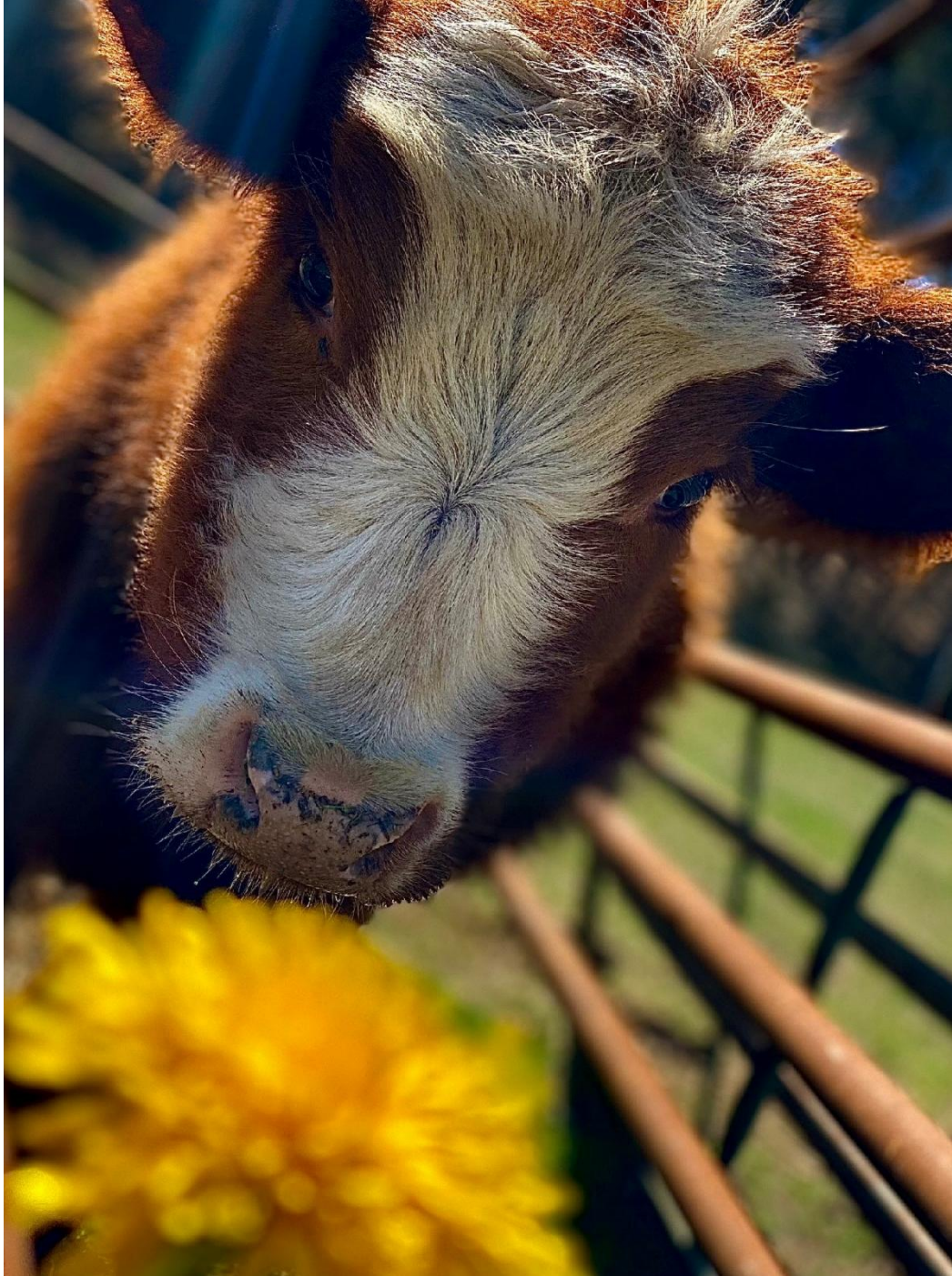


Photo by Ashtyn Crawley - the 2024 Youth Voter's Choice Award Winner!

Youth and Adults can enter by submitting up to six photos (one per category). Contact the office for guidelines. Categories include: People; Places; Animals, Insects or Reptiles; Flowers, Plants or Trees; Human Interest; and Hamilton County. The deadline to enter your photos is March 28th.

[Photo Contest Guidelines](#)



4-H Portfolio

All 6th – 12th graders can submit a 4-H Portfolio for competition for either region or state (senior high) competition. At the Senior High level there are scholarships and trips as part of the awards. Turn in your portfolio to the County Extension Agents by the dates below for review. If you want to start a portfolio or work on your project area, contact Nancy Rucker, nrucker@tennessee.edu or come to the next Honor Club and Citizenship Club meeting on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30-8:00 pm for a portfolio workshop!

Senior High (9th – 12th grades) portfolios are due for review by March 21st.

Junior High (6th – 8th grades) portfolio are due for review by March 24th.

**Come to a 4-H Club Meeting
this Month!**

Honor Club & Citizenship Club

4-H Honor Club and 4-H Citizenship Club February 11

Tuesday, February 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Hamilton County Extension office. Students in grades 5th - 12th are welcome to come to meetings of these clubs. We will work with you to get the points needed to join the 4-H Honor Club.

At the February meeting, club members in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade will show their interactive displays and discuss what they've been doing in their project areas. Need help with your portfolio - or just want to find out more about 4-H portfolios? Stay for the 4-H e-portfolio workshop (pizza will be served!) 6:30-8:00 p.m. All 4-H members are welcome to attend!





4-H Veterinary Science Club

4-H Veterinary Science Club February 13

Thursday, February 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Hamilton County Extension office. Grades 4th through 12th meet monthly to learn about animal care. This month, the club members are preparing for the 4-H Wildlife Contest by learning about animals found in Tennessee. Land management, plant identification, and habitat planning are all part of this program! 4-H wildlife competitions are held at the Regional, and (for senior high participants) State and National levels. New and potentially new club members are welcome at every meeting.

Learn more and download the manual used in this program [at the website of WHEP](#), the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program.



Are you a fan of the superb owl? Come to the next 4-H Veterinary Science Club meeting to learn more about Tennessee wildlife!

4-H Gardening Club

4-H Gardening Club
February 24

Monday, February 24, 4:30-6:00 p.m. This fun, hands-on gardening

club for grades 4th-8th meets once a month at the Hamilton County Extension office. Meetings are led by Master Gardeners, and a craft is included in each meeting.

February's meeting will include deciding on some plants for this year's 4-H garden and also learning about water quality needed for aquatic organisms. Learn about the Hellbender salamander and the water pH it needs to survive, while trying out an experiment on nonpoint source pollution! Questions? Email Extension Agent Maria Sabin (msabin@tennessee.edu) or call the Extension office (423-209-8560).



4-H Horse Club

4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club
March 3



Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. The 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club meets once a month on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Saddle Pals Riding Club in Soddy Daisy. Grades 4th-12th can participate. You do not need to own a horse to be in this club. The focus of club activities is learning about horses, not horseback riding.

Youth are preparing for the Eastern Region 4-H Horse Judging Contest to be held April 3rd at Roane State Expo Center. Meetings to prepare for judging contest will be held February 10th and 24th, and March 10th and 24th. To join the 4-H Horse Club or get more information, please call the Extension office 423-209-8560 or contact the club's Volunteer Leader, Adam Presley, by text 423-595-5409.

Local Bull Rider!



Landon at the Hamilton County Fair Rodeo

Landon riding a bull at the Hamilton County Fair. Photo courtesy of Beau Duvall

4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club member Landon Gentry rode a bull for the first time at this year's Hamilton County Fair! Landon is 11 years old and said that bull riding is a lot of fun and that he thinks bull riders can earn a lot of money. His goal for the future is to eventually participate in the National Finals Rodeo. Landon is a student at Hixson Elementary. He gave his 4-H speech in his classroom this year on (you guessed it) bull riding!

4-H Volunteers in Our Community



4-H'ers Hudson Randle, Heidi Provence, Noah Ham, Ivy Ham, and Lillian Shank (not pictured) helped with wreath retirement at this year's National Cemetery event to remove Christmas wreaths from the graves of service men and women.

Coming Up!

4-H Spring All-Star Conference
April 11-13



Save the date for the Spring 4-H All Star Conference to be held at the Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. Dates are April 11-13, it will be Game

Show Galore! Cost for the full weekend is \$165 per person. This conference is open to all 9th -12th graders (you do not have to be an All Star to attend). We have up to four \$50 scholarships for first time attendees.

4-H Junior Camp June 9-13



2024 Junior 4-H Camp Hamilton County group

Youth who have finished 4th, 5th, or 6th grade in Hamilton County can attend 4-H Junior Camp at Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, Tennessee! This is a fun week filled with making new friends and trying out great activities like fishing, swimming, wildlife walks, Ga Ga ball, archery and rifle ranges, group games, tie-dyeing shirts, and much more. Cost is \$400, which includes transportation to and from camp, lodging, meals, and most activities. Online camp fee payment is available at tiny.utk.edu/4HJrCamp. Scholarships are available. Visit the Extension Office website's junior camp page for more information.

4-H Jr Camp Info

4-H Junior High Camp July 7-11



4-H Junior High Camp is for Hamilton County youth who have finished 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. This fun week includes lots of group activities such as field trips, service projects, STEM activities, slime wars, and much more. In addition, youth enjoy the same fabulous activities available at Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. Cost is \$400. For more information or to download the junior high camp brochure, visit the Extension Office website's junior high camp page.

[Junior High 4-H Camp Info](#)

UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

tsu COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

UT - TSU Extension Hamilton County
6183 Adamson Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37416
423-209-8560

4-H Staff:
Extension Agent and County Director Nancy Rucker
(nrucker@tennessee.edu)
Extension Agent Maria Sabin (msabin@tennessee.edu)

[Visit our Website](#)

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development,
family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture
and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



UT/TSU Extension - Hamilton County | 6183 Adamson Circle | Chattanooga, TN 37416
US